

REMARKS

As a preliminary matter, Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter contained in claims 3, 5, and 6. Claim 1 is amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 3, and claims 5 and 6 have been rewritten in independent form.

Claims 3 and 5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. In response, Applicants traverse the rejection of claim 3 because the widths of the bead core are defined in an axial direction of the tire and a diametric (along the diameter) direction of the tire. Applicant amended claim 5 to include a second non-fastening bead core, and traverse the rejection based on this amendment.

The Examiner asserts in the rejection that claim 3 defines the first and second thickness for the fastening bead core which appears to refer to the thickness of the non-fastening bead core. This is incorrect. As shown in FIG. 1, the fastening bead core 6a has a width in the axial direction (left and right directions as viewed in FIG. 1) and a width in the diametric direction (diameter direction as viewed in FIG. 1) of the pneumatic tire T. Support for this feature can be found in the Specification on page 7, paragraph [0020]. For this reason, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 3, which is now included in claim 1, is definite.

Claim 5 is amended to include a second non-fastening bead core. Support for this amendment can be found in FIG. 3 and the related description in Applicant's Specification. Based on this amendment, Applicant respectfully submits that there is proper antecedent basis for the non-fastening bead cores. For the above reasons,

withdrawal of the §112, second paragraph, indefiniteness rejection as it applies to claims 1 and 5 is respectfully requested.

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Iwami (JP 5-178033) or alternatively by Watanabe (JP 2000-301917). Since claim 1 is amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 3, these rejections are now moot. For this reason, withdrawal of the §102(b) rejections is respectfully requested.

Claim 2 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Watanabe. Claim 4 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Iwami and further in view Yakida (JP 8-175126). Since claim 1 is amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 3, these rejections are now moot. For this reason, withdrawal of the §103(a) rejections of claims 2 and 4 is respectfully requested.

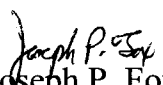
For all of the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that this Application is in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney if an interview would expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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